

REMARKS

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment with a divisional application filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b).

In this Amendment, Applicants add section headings, section subheadings, and an Abstract of the Disclosure to conform to U.S. practice. Applicants also make certain minor amendments to the specification to conform with amendments made to the specification during prosecution of the parent application, namely, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/897,493. Applicants also amend FIG. 5 to conform with amendments to this FIG. made during prosecution of the parent application. Additionally, Applicants add claims to rights of priority and benefit. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicants cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, original claims 1-23. In a Preliminary Amendment filed in the parent application, Applicants canceled original claims 1-23 and added new claims 24-46, which included the same subject matter as the original claims, to improve clarity. In the parent application, the Examiner required restriction between claims 24-37, directed to a method of manufacturing a tire reinforcing structure, and claims 38-46, directed to an apparatus/plant for manufacturing a tire reinforcing structure. Applicants elected to pursue claims 24-37. The instant application includes the claims directed to the subject matter of original claims 15-23, as well as claims 38-46 added in the Preliminary Amendment filed in the parent application. The claims in the instant application have been renumbered 24-32. The originally filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings fully support the

amendments to the specification and the addition of claims 24-32. No new matter has been added by these claims.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: October 16, 2003

By: Stephanie S. Conis Gauthier
Stephanie S. Conis Gauthier
Reg. No. 40,569

Attachments: New Abstract of the Disclosure (on new page 28)
Replacement Drawing Sheet of FIGS. 5 and 6
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes to FIG. 5

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER ^{LLP}

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com